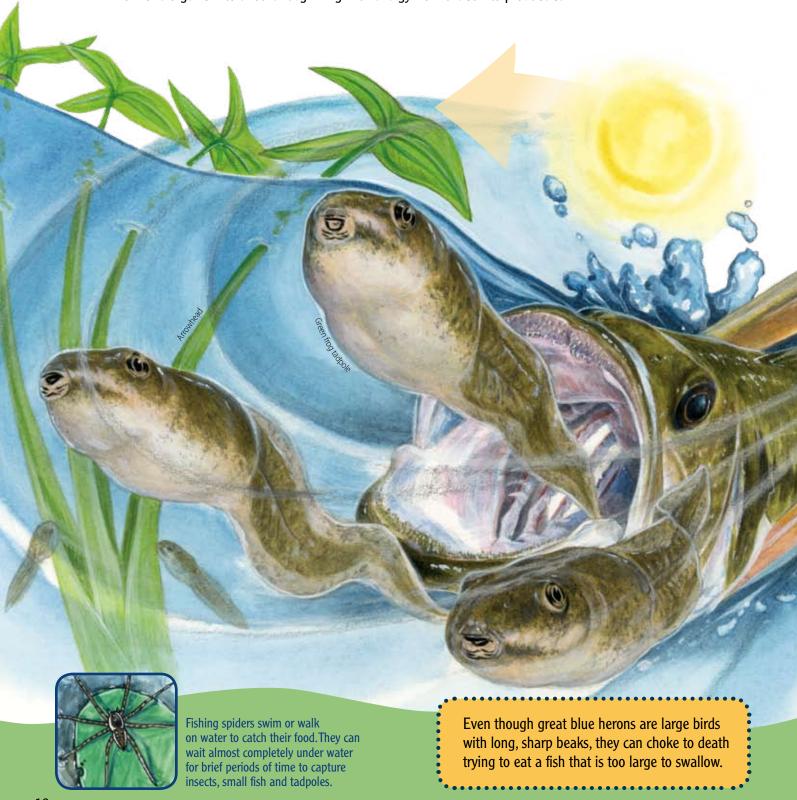
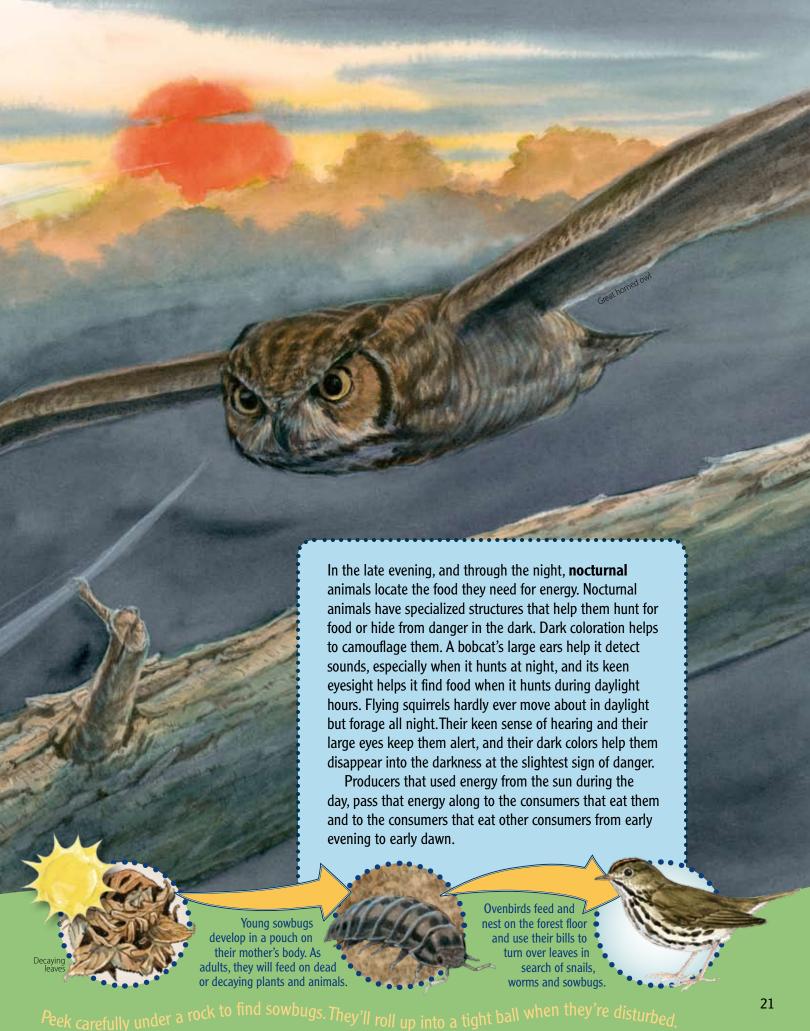
## chain of foods

There would be no life on Earth without the sun. In this chapter, you will learn how the sun is the energy source that helps plants produce energy. **Food chains** transfer energy from one organism to another beginning with energy from the sun to producers.









## prairie food chain

In a prairie, every time a consumer, such as a rabbit, eats a producer, such as grass seeds, the consumer (rabbit) takes in some of the energy that the producer (grass seeds) received from the sun. When a coyote, another consumer, creeps up quietly enough to grab and eat the rabbit, the coyote gains some of the energy that has been passed along from the sun to the grass seeds to the rabbit. The sun, the grass seeds, the rabbit and the coyote are linked together in a prairie food chain.

If prairie grasses disappeared, populations of mice and voles would decrease because there would be less of their main food source to eat. Populations of snakes that depend on mice and voles for food and energy would decrease, and hawks would have fewer mice, voles and snakes to eat or to feed their young.



